

## World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)

### Key features

**Type of organisation:** Inter-governmental organisation

**Charter/Constitution:** International Agreement for the creation of an Office International des Epizooties, [www.oie.int/en/about-us/key-texts/basic-texts/international-agreement-for-the-creation-of-an-office-international-des-epizooties/](http://www.oie.int/en/about-us/key-texts/basic-texts/international-agreement-for-the-creation-of-an-office-international-des-epizooties/)

**Membership:**

- Nature: Representatives from governments (generally from the ministry in charge of the veterinary authority)
- Number: 181 members

**Year of establishment:** 1924

**Headquarters:** Paris, France

**Regional offices:** Bamako (Mali), Buenos Aires (Argentina), Tokyo (Japan), Moscow (Russia), Beirut (Lebanon)

**Sub-regional offices:** Gaboronne,(Botswana), Tunis, (Tunisia), Nairobi (Kenya), Panama, Bangkok (Thailand), Brussels (Belgium), Astana (Kazakhstan)

**Secretariat staff:** 184 (at 30 September 2017)

**Total budget:** EUR 25 million (2016)

**Type of activity:** Policy dialogue, risk communications, data collection and analysis, information exchange, development of legal instruments, capacity building

**Sectors of activity:** Animal health (terrestrial, aquatic and wildlife), veterinary education, veterinary public health, food safety and animal welfare, international trade in animals and animal products, laboratory diagnostic methods, vaccine quality

**Webpage:** [www.oie.int](http://www.oie.int)

### Members

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China (People's Republic of), Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Curaçao, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Former Yug. Rep. Of Macedonia, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Korea, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Chinese Taipei, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad And Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

### Relationship with non-members

OIE has relationships with non-members for collection and validation of disease occurrence information.

### Observers

Honk Kong, Palestinian Autonomous Territories.

#### Mandate

The OIE is the inter-governmental organisation responsible for improving animal health worldwide. The mandate the OIE is to ensure transparency in the global animal disease situation; collect, analyse and disseminate veterinary scientific information; encourage international solidarity in the control of animal diseases; safeguard world trade by publishing health standards for international trade in animals and animal products; improve the legal framework and resources of national veterinary services; provide a better guarantee of food of animal origin and to promote animal welfare through a science-based approach. The adopted standards are recognised under the SPS agreement of the WTO/OMC.

## IRC processes taking place within the World Organisation for Animal Health



## Categories of legal and policy instruments

	Is it taking place within the IO?	Approximate number
Treaties for ratification by States (excluding the funding one)		
Legally binding decisions	√	
Recommendations	√	
Political declarations	√	
Model treaties or law	√	
Production of technical standards	√	381
Non-binding guidance/best practices document	√	

## Interactions with other international organisations active in the field

Mechanisms of interaction	Approximate number of IOs involved	Examples
Develop joint instruments	√ 6	Cooperation agreements with 70 IGOs and NGOs, such as WHO, FAO, WTO/OMC, OECD, WCO, IEC, European Union, AU (African Union), ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations), MERCOSUR (Southern Common Market), ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States), SSAFE (Safe Supply of Affordable Food Everywhere), IDF (International Dairy Federation), FEI (Fédération Équestre Internationale)
MoU or other agreements	√ 70	
Participate in co-ordinating institution	√	
Joint meetings that provide forum for co-ordination	√	
Observe relevant actions of other bodies	√	
Exchange information	√	

### OIE history

In 1920, rinderpest occurred unexpectedly in Belgium, as a result of zebus, originating from India and destined for Brazil, transiting via the port of Antwerp with devastating economic and food security consequences. Despite the inevitable slowness of the negotiations undertaken through diplomatic channels, twenty-eight States obtained an international agreement on 25 January 1924 creating the Office International des Epizooties (OIE) based in Paris, reflecting a desire clearly expressed by the Secretary General of the League of Nations (replaced by the United Nations). In May 2003 the OIE became the World Organisation for Animal Health but kept its historical acronym OIE.

Source: Updated from OECD (2016), *International Regulatory Co-operation: The Role of International Organisations in Fostering Better Rules of Globalisation*, OECD Publishing, Paris. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264244047-en>